



**KING COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

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**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2003**

**4:00-5:30 PM**

Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building  
821 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:**

Alice Howell (KCMHAB)

Bob Seidensticker (KCASAAB)

Eleanor Owen (Co-Chair/KCMHAB)

Howard Miller (KCMHAB)

Clifford Thurston (KCMHAB)

Roger Goodman (Co-Chair/KCASAAB)

Ron Sterling (KCMHAB)

**Absent:**

Linda Brown (KCASAAB)

Mindy Meyring (KCMHAB)

Jim Harbaugh (KCASAAB)

Pam Dietrick (KCASAAB)

**Visitors:**

Frank Jose (NAMI Greater Seattle)

**Staff:**

Amnon Shoenfeld

Sherry Hamilton

Geoff Miller

**I. Introductions/Announcements**

Introductions and announcements were made. The folks from NAMI were welcomed and invited to participate in the meeting.

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II. Review and Approval of January 22, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented.

III. Governor's Budget – Report and updated

- Status of the meetings and efforts of the division in regards to the mental health budget and the case load miscalculations were provided by Amnon. In brief the situation has not changed, but efforts to make the reality of the budget issues known is having some success. The situation was recapped as follows:

Mental Health appears to have a three (3) percent increase in Community Services, which is one of the four categories of funds.

Those categories are: Community Services  
State Direct Services  
Civil Commitment  
Administration

The three (3) percent increase may in fact represent a decrease in funding for RSNs because of the inclusion of ECS in the community services budget category. In addition there are issues with the caseload forecast. Specifically, the model used by the Caseload Forecast Council may have an error that adversely impacts the RSNs. The model has been requested but not yet received.

Other cuts include the MIOCTP program, which has been very successful in moving and maintaining mentally ill persons from the criminal justice system into the community. Seattle Mental Health, who operates the program under contract with the RSN has been asked to do a cost-benefit analysis for use in talking with the legislature.

Additional cuts include the elimination of funding for the Ticket To Work Program, elimination of general assistance for the unemployable (GAU) and cuts to the basic health plan. All will have an impact on mental health and the cuts to GAU and the Basic Health Plan also impact the CD system.

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- No changes in the impact of funding decreases for Chemical Dependency. Reductions do not appear to be as severe as for Mental Health. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding is targeted for reduction and this may impact the staff at the KCAC or services such as out-stationing liaison services to the central services offices. In addition, it is unknown if the TANF funding used to match Title XIX Medicaid will continue. The loss of this funding could result in a \$1,000,000 loss in treatment funding.

**IV. Legislator Contacts**

- Amnon noted that he has continued to visit and contact legislators and legislative staff. The mood of the legislators was “very, very depressed” and has not changed as the session has progressed. Amnon stated that he has focused his education efforts on the direct impacts of the Governor’s budget on mental health and chemical dependency services. Additionally, he has emphasized the issue of using savings to increase those services that provide saving.
- Eleanor stated that the prescription drug bill in the Senate’s version offers considerably less than the House version. It may be difficult to reach consensus on a final bill.

**V. 2002 Action Plan – Legislative Advocacy and Outreach**

- Updates: Outreach to legislators, community partners, stakeholders

Several members noted speaking to legislators with varying success. All were encouraged to continue to develop relationships with their legislators.

Sherry noted a letter from both boards was just sent regarding the potential of an alcohol tax increase. A second letter from both boards will go out next week regarding the mental health budget.

- Assignments/Next Steps – outreach and engagement

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It was again recommended that each committee member continue to make contacts with legislators.

**VI. Legislative Information**

- Discussion included progress on the bills, support of the bills by various organizations and organizations opposing the bills; including NAMI of Washington.
- Information on age of consent bills was discussed. No one was certain of the chances of any of the bills passing out of the legislature.
- HB 1011 Voluntary Intoxication was discussed.
- Other legislation that is in process but has not been introduced including the increase in the taxes on beer, changes to sentencing grid, release of non-violent offenders, and use of the saving generated.

**VII. Public Affairs Plan**

- Sherry provided a list of possible local, state, and national public education/recognition events for mental health and substance abuse at the January meeting. Following a brief discussion, no public affairs plans were set for March. This was mentioned that activities in both April and May are coming quickly.

**VIII. Set Agenda for March 26, 2003 meeting, which will be held as follows:**

March 26, 2003  
4 PM to 5:30 PM  
Conference Room 6B, Exchange Building  
821 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

*For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136.*

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